

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 06776 01 OF 02 180540Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 /019 W
-----066862 180557Z /16

R 180455Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9405

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 TEHRAN 6776

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS:BBSR,ENRG, TATT, IR
SUBJ: WTDR: MATERIAL AND ENERGY RESEARCH CENTER (MERC)

REF: USDOC 04393

1. IRAN
OFFICAL USE: 2. 507 3. BLANK 4. 01

5. MATERIAL AND ENERGY RESEARCH CENTER

6. ARYAMEHR UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
ESFARAYEN AVE., ALVAND ST P.O. BOX 412927

7. TEHRAN

8. CONTACT: DR S. VODJDANI

9. TITLE: DIRECTOR
OTHER OFFICALS ARE: DR HASHEMIAN-ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

10. PHONE: 681578 11. TELEX:213047 MERC, 213872 MERC

12. CABLE:3329

13. ESTABL: 1970 14. EMPL:200 15. SIZE: MEDIUM
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16. REPUTATION: (Y) GOOD 17. RPT DATE: 7/78
OFFICE USE: 18.NA 19. NA 20.NA
21. NA 22. NA

23A 8922/79- GOVERMENT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ORGANIZATION.

24. FOREIGN SALES: LOCAL ONLY

25. FINANCIAL REFS: BANK MELLI IRAN: BANK MARKAZI.

26. TRADE REFS: SEE ITEM (28).

27. FOREIGN FIRMS REPRESENTED: SEE ITEM (28).

28. POST EVALUATION: MERC WAS FOUNDED IN 1970 AS MATERIALS APPLICATION RESEARCH LABORATORY OF ARYAMEHR UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, LATER (1974) ACQUIRED PRESENT NAME, EXPANDED FACILITIES AND BUDGET. OBJECTIVE OF CENTER IS TO CARRY ON SOLAR ENERGY RESEARCH AND APPLICATIONS IN IRAN. ALTHOUGH ALL CURRENT ACTIVITIES FOCUS ON SOLAR ENERGY, CENTER HAS EVOLVED FIVE CLOSELY RELATED BUT DISTINCT GROUPS WHOSE PROJECTS HAVE SECONDARY APPLICATIONS IN OTHER AREAS:

(1) MATERIALS GROUP DOES RESEARCH ON PRODUCTION OF MATERIALS FOR SOLAR ENERGY GENERATION, CERAMICS AND OXIDES, AND WORKS CLOSELY WITH SEVERAL PRIVATE INDUSTRIAL CERAMICS PRODUCERS IN IRAN.

(2) ENERGY APPLICATIONS GROUP CONCENTRATES ON PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS FOR SOLAR ENERGY IN IRANIAN ENVIRONMENT.

(3) AIR POLLUTION GROUP IS DEVELOPING INSOLATION AND AIR POLLUTION DATA FOR VARIOUS AREAS OF THE COUNTRY.

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(4) ELECTRONICS GROUP HAS DEVELOPED BILINGUAL (ENGLISH AND FARSI) HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE FOR CENTER'S DATA PROCESSING REQUIREMENTS BUT WHICH CAN ALSO BE UTILIZED BY PRIVATE INDUSTRY.

(5) TECHNICAL PLANNING GROUP PROVIDES ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND APPROVES PROCUREMENT REQUESTS.

BUDGET FOR CURRENT FISCAL YEAR IS DOLS 7 MILLION, FUNDED THROUGH GOI MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION (65 PERCENT), AND MINISTRY OF ENERGY (35 PERCENT). DISBURSEMENTS ARE 30.3 PERCENT FOR PROJECTS AND EQUIPMENT, 34.3 PERCENT FOR CURRENT OPERATING COSTS, 35.4 PERCENT FOR FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION.

MERC HAS CONCLUDED INFORMATION EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS WITH WEST GERMAN MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, FRENCH NATIONAL CENTER FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (CNRS) AND HAIFA INSTITUTE FOR SOLAR ENERGY (ISRAEL). INFORMAL AGREEMENTS EXIST WITH SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS IN ITALY AND REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA. IT ALSO HAS CONTRACT WITH BRUNELL UNIVERSITY IN U.K. FOR TRAINING, EXCHANGE OF PERSONNEL AND SEMINARS. MERC OFFICIALS STATE THAT THEY ARE ANXIOUS TO ESTABLISH FORMAL RELATIONSHIP WITH USDOE SOLAR ENERGY OFFICES AND AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WITH ACTIVE SOLAR

ENERGY PROGRAMS.

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 /019 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9406

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POLICY TOWARD COLLABORATION WITH FOREIGN FIRMS: MERC IS WORKING ON SPECIFIC APPLICATIONS OF SOLAR ENERGY FOR IRANIAN GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE FIRMS IN AREAS OF HOUSING, POWER GENERATION, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND MATERIALS DEVELOPMENT. ROLE OF MERC IS TO DEVELOP VIABLE APPLICATIONS FOR IRANIAN ENVIRONMENT, WHICH ARE THEN TURNED OVER TO CLIENT FOR COMMERCIALIZATION OR LARGE SCALE PRODUCTION. MERC IS ANXIOUS TO WORK WITH FIRMS WILLING TO SHARE THEIR TECHNOLOGY IN DEVELOPMENT PHASE AS PRICE OF FAVORED ACCESS TO IRANIAN MARKET. TO DATE, WEST GERMAN, FRENCH AND ITALIAN FIRMS HAVE BEEN MORE AGGRESSIVE IN THIS AREA, BUT MERC OFFICIALS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH MARCH 78 USTC SOLAR ENERGY EXHIBITION, AND SPECIFICALLY HIGH TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS.

ALTHOUGH SOME SUPPLIERS HAVE EXPERIENCED DELAYS IN OBTAINING PAYMENT FROM MERC, THESE DELAYS DUE TO TIME REQUIRED FOR APPROVAL OF FUNDS TRANSFERS THROUGH CENTRAL BANK AND OTHER GOI AGENCIES. MRC IS FULLY SUPPORTED BY GOI MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION AND AS SUCH CAN BE EXPECTED TO MEET ITS CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS. IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED AS TRADE CONTACT FOR US FIRMS WITH INTEREST IN EXPANDING U.S. PRODUCT SALES IN SOLAR EQUIPMENT INTO FERTILE DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL MARKET PLACE.

29. PREP: G.P. WILSON APPR: R.C. BREWIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ENERGY, RESEARCH
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
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